

Evidence-Based Research Network.  
Steering Group Meeting  
Monday 22 April 19:00 – 20:00 (CEST)

**Members present:** Hans Lund, Hanna Nykvist, Peg Ford, Mona Nasser, Matt Westmore, Maureen Dobbins

**Agenda:**

1. **Status the EBRNetwork** – we are 77 members at the moment, but closer to 85 when all co-authors for the publications are official members. Matt will contact his colleagues and Hans the DIGEST group and ask them to register as members. We have more than 100 followers on Twitter, and after Evidence Live the website traffic increased substantially.
2. **Funding of EBRNetwork** – there will be no membership fee. We will set up a bank account in Denmark. When it comes to funding we will collect ideas from the members of the network, and then a smaller group will be in charge of the applications etc. Mona suggested that we might invite David Moore to be part of this smaller group and Peg also listed a couple of prospects for funding.
3. **Status**  
**Road Map** – there are enough authors for paper 1, 2 and 9. The other papers could benefit from more authors, especially the implications papers, and everyone should consider nominating themselves and/or recommending people they know. Peter Tugwell has given the publication plan to the editors of JCE and the contact will be with them from now on and not with Peter. It was agreed that new authors should be invited by those already involved in the specific paper, and that everyone in that author group must approve before involving more authors. We should not give an open invitation. The author groups should also think about finding a peer reviewer at an early stage. All author groups should write a short paragraph about how they intend to structure the paper.  
**DIGEST** - Hans had a meeting with Paul Glasziou at Evidence Live and they discussed how to make systematic reviews more efficient. Paul and his colleagues are working with methods to automate the systematic review process. Hans also has PhD students interested in this area and so currently there are 10 people committed to the DIGEST group. They have their first meeting in the middle of May.
4. **Report from Evidence Live** – there were 30 – 35 participants at Hans’s presentation at Evidence Live. The response was very positive and questions were mainly about methods and “classical prejudices”. Carl Heneghan also asked if we want to submit something in preparation for Evidence Live 2016. Hans also went to the BMJ house and gave a similar presentation for the editorial group and their response was also positive.
5. **A basic article about systematic reviews** – we will write about what a systematic review is and put it on the website for a more general audience – it does not have to be an academic paper. Also, when we write the papers in the publication plan we will explain what we mean by a systematic review in that context and the implications for various stakeholders.
6. **Distinction between existing and new systematic reviews** – when at the BMJ house in London, Klara and Hans had a meeting with the Editor-in-Chief of BMJ Open, Trish Groves. She told them that the BMJ will not follow the Lancet in asking every author to prepare a panel about a systematic search as part of the Introduction. The reason is that they think that it will devalue the concept of the

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systematic review. The Steering Group agreed to that and decided that it is important for the EBRNetwork to set a high standard for what we mean by a systematic review. There will, however, be different situations, for instance, when applying for research funding or the type of study e.g. RCT vs. a public health intervention. It is difficult to specify one methodology for all, and even though the standards should be high they must also be put into context.

7. **Shorten our messages** - there must be enough terminology in our two messages to not take away what we mean, but it will also be good to have a tagline. Peg, Hanna and Hans will work on it.
8. **EBHC conference** – we will submit an abstract for the EBHC conference. Klara and Hans will take care of that deadline: 30 April. They will re-use the Evidence Live abstract. Also, we got an abstract accepted to COMET thanks to Karen who will go there and present. There are also two other conferences we might consider going to:  
The Global Evidence Synthesis Summit, June 13-14, 2015 in Oslo (Marlies might be there) and the HTAi Annual Meeting, June 14 – 17 2015, in Oslo.
9. **Other** – the next meeting is on May 20 7.00 pm CEST.